Mr. P. S. Prabhakaran, Vice Chancellor, Rajiv Gandhi University and the Chief Guest of this evening Mr. D. V. Prasad, Medical Education Secretary, Professor Mukhopadhyay, Secretary of our Association, Dr. Srimurthi, Organizing Chairman of this Congress, Professor Ashley J. D Cruz, Organizing Secretary, Dr. Siddhappa, Chairman Karnataka State Chapter, Past Presidents of this Association, invited guests, faculty, delegates, member friends, ladies and gentlemen, I wish you all good evening on the inaugural function of the 31st Annual Conference of Indian Association of Pediatric Surgeons at Bangalore.

Professor V. K. Raina had organized a wonderful conference last year at Jabalpur; then the mantle of President-ship was passed on to me by Professor D. K. Gupta. Memories of the year are gone as it has witnessed a deluge in more than one way; an eventful year indeed, of activities, formation of chapters, workshops and seminars.

• Sania Mirza, the tennis sensation and stardom, who catapulted the 40th rank.
• Hitherto unknown word ‘Tsunami’ became world famous overnight in the wake of its disaster at the southern tip of India and Sri Lanka.
• Mumbai rains paralyzed the city but the resolve of the Mumbaites brought the city back alive.
• Katrina hurricane left behind destruction and devastation.
• The silver lining in the dark clouds was India being put in Formula–1 Car racing, by Narain Karthikeyan. Incidentally he hails from Coimbatore.

The Mumbai’s two-day very interactive Workshop at Nair Hospital in November 2004 was organized by Professor Sanjay Oak. At the workshop, a color atlas of ‘Minimal Access Surgery’ in children was brought out. A concept of pictorial representation of the many simple and more advanced pediatric endoscopic surgery procedures provides the viewers a glimpse into the endoscopic world. Well done to the Editors, Oak and his team. The project was well conceived and translated for perfection.

The Annual Meet of Northeast Chapter of IAPS was held at Assam in Oct 2004. Constraint of distance, in a country like ours, state chapters cannot bridge the distance and reach out. Small areas were clubbed and one such was Northwest India Pediatric Surgery Club, which was inaugurated in Dec 2005 by yours truly at Chandigarh.

The two-day workshop was very informative. On the first day, there was lecture by Guest Lectures and on the second day ward rounds was well organized by Professor K. N. Rao of PGI, Chandigarh. West Bengal Pediatric Surgery Association had their Annual Meeting (a two-day session) on 17th and 18th December 2004 at Kolkata. Professor Bharathi Kulkarni demonstrated her expertise in the ‘Exstrophy Epispadias Repair’.

Northwest India Pediatric Surgical Club had its second Academic Meeting on 17th April in CMC, Ludhiana which was organized by Professor V. P. Singh and Dr. Kamalesh. “Krickenbeck Kalling” was held in Germany from May 17 to 20th, where pediatric surgeons from all over the world met and discussed about the anorectal malformation. The Indian contingents who represented were Professor Subir Chatterji, Kolkata, Professor D. K. Gupta, New Delhi, Professor Sudipta Sen, Vellore and Dr. Sripathi, Chennai. Their contributions were recognized and included in the classifications under rare anomalies.

Two-day Urology Pediatric workshop at LTMG hospital, Sion on 25 and 26th Feb, 2005 was well-organized by Professor Bharathi K. Kulkarni. A wide spectrum of urological problems were demonstrated. We were honored with the presence of Mrs. Deshmukh, Past President of IAPS, ASI, Professor of Pediatric surgery and later became the Dean of the Hospital and retired as Vice Chancellor of Mumbai University, who inaugurated the event.

‘Evidence Based Medicine’ – a interaction session, by Dr. Arjun Rajagopal from Sundaram Medical Foundation, Chennai, with 30 post graduate students was held at Chennai. He stressed the importance of having a question, a well-defined objective before undertaking any research and the importance of medical practice according to established proofs and facts. This lively intersession interaction made us invite him to Coimbatore, a month later where he expressed the important issue of proof and quality of ‘Evidence Based Medicine’. Pediatric Endoscopic Surgeons of India (PESI), a group of 23 pediatric surgeons met at Coimbatore with special
President’s Speech

interest in endoscopic surgery. The application for starting the chapter was duly signed and the deliberations were recorded by the IAPS President Professor Ramkumar Raghupathy in Chair; Past President D. Durairajan, PP Professor V. R. Ravikumar, Professor Mukhopadhyay and Dr. Selvaraj. It was a two-day workshop with video sessions and half day hands on training by Endoscopic trainer.

Dr. Srimurthi organized a Laparoscopy workshop at Indira Gandhi Institute of Child Health in Bangalore from 22nd to 26th May 2005. A well attended, close, knit group with endoscopic training and live demonstration. The Tamilnadu State Chapter had their annual conference on August 6th and 7th 2005 at Madurai. Dr. Mane from Mumbai demonstrated his skill in Hypospadias Repair.

The President handed over the protocol and Fixed Deposit book to the Organizing Chairman for the inauguration of the K. G. V. Urology Research Fellowship Award from the year 2005. Professor K. G. Vivekanandhan left us 2 years ago. I was his classmate from 1st year MBBS. We the classmates built a corpus which shall give a dividend of Rs. 10 000 each year which goes to a young Pediatric Surgeon for his work in Urological Research.

Professor K. E. Mammen, after his retirement had joined in PSG IMS and R. He was a very keen tennis player. He left us in 2003. So, this year on 23rd August 2005, a small function was held to remember him and a Trophy was donated for the best tennis player among the Medical Colleges in Tamilnadu. I would like to thank Professor V. R. Ravikumar for organizing this event. Dr. Ashish Wakku from the Department of Pediatric surgery, King George’s Medical University, Lucknow, organized a workshop on clinical research – Aims, Scope and Relevance on 16th April 2005, which was inaugurated by me. Faculty were drawn from various streams making it a very interesting and fruitful session. The National Symposium on Clinical Research and Recent Advancements on Surgery was held on 27th August 2005 at Amritsar. The Surgeons’ Society of Amritsar was well represented. I acknowledge Dr. Miglani for having organized the wonderful symposium on clinical research.

I must congratulate Professor Subir Chatterji and his team for nurturing the Journal for 6 long years and for the time and efforts especially, during the initial teething period. The Journal wears a new look under Editor-in-Chief, Professor D. K. Gupta. I wish him and his team all the very best and I am sure the Journal will be indexed very shortly. Professor Subir Chatterji has had another book, Surgery of Pediatric Anorectal Malformations. The book conveys thoughts and strategies of the children from a highly skilled surgeon. It was well presented and fully illustrated and all pediatric surgeons must read.

Worldwide Web is an unique service offered by Internet where a collection of data can be viewed throughout the world, no matter of source of origin. Now with the click of the mouse, our IAPS website opens out on-line and is officially inaugurated. Professor Ravikumar gave us IAPS Yahoo group and this website. The Home page is visually very pleasing and user-friendly and has a wealth of information. The 27th Journal links are the ready reckoner.

‘Cradle Care’ is an Insurance for the new born child covering congenital anomalies from birth to 200 days. The Insurance should be taken by the mother before 20 weeks of pregnancy. United India Insurance along with Link-K Insurance Brokers have launched this programme in association with IAPS on 16th October 2005 at Coimbatore. This event had a wide coverage in the media and is valid all over India. I am glad to inform that this year membership ID cards with the Pediatric Surgery number has been brought out.

Dr. Arjun Rajagopal gave his lecture on ‘Evidence Based Medicine’ at our IAPS conference at Bangalore where he stressed the advancement of knowledge and justification of new knowledge for diagnostic value and treatment value. The good clinical research done in a committee can change the national/state health policy.

Pediatric surgery undergraduate training has been represented to the MCI and work is in progress. It is essential that every Medical college must have a Pediatric surgery department with local State University making a part of Surgery Examination.

Uniformity of training in MCh and DNB is a must. An in-depth syllabus must be drawn and logs should be maintained. The Stats must be clearly mentioned and the sizable surgeries done, the surgeries assisted especially by neonates and endoscopic training including Laparoscopic surgery should be explained.

The changing patterns and technological advances, treating the children weighing 1 kg and less becomes a routine. Heads of teaching departments must address this both by the way of infrastructure as well as include in the curriculum.

Indian Academy of Paediatrics and Indian Association of Paediatric Surgeons must work hand in hand. The senior members who have been contributing to child care must be honored by making them as honorary members and a
short session of Pediatrics must be included during IAPS conference and vice versa.

Current population of children is 4 million. The Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) is an apex body for formulation, co-ordination and promotion of biomedical research in the country. It is under the Ministry of Health, which provides the funds and general body is governed and presided by the Union Health Minister.

ICMR - HRD
Research fellowship
Short term visiting fellowship
Short term research stewardship
Various training and workshops

AWARDS - 38 awards – 11 are exclusively for young scientists below 40 years.

DST - Development of Science and Technology
DBT – Development of Biotechnology

ICMR, DPT, DBT are a few who are ever ready to fund research Projects and it is up to us to utilize them. These are the other avenues that are also open.

The Congress of Asian Association of Paediatric Surgeons is a meeting at New Delhi in Nov 11–15th 2006 with Professor D.K. Gupta as the organizing Chairman. Drs Pena, Puri and Snodgras will be there for the workshop. The SAARC members will also be attending. I congratulate Professor D. K. Gupta.

We appreciate our organizing committee Dr. K. R. Srimurthi, Professor A.J.D Cruz, Drs S. Ramesh and Anand Alladi, who have done a wonderful job. Professor Mukhopadhyay has been a wonderful Secretary, and has been rapid in his responses and brought out a wonderful directory and 4 issues of Newsletter. His communications have always been prompt. Bishan is acknowledged very much. Thanks to my Executive Committee members. Special mention must be made to our Ex-president Professor V. R. Ravikumar, PP Professors K. K. Varma, K. L. N. Rao, D. K. Gupta and Dr. Srimurthi, Professors Ashley and Anirudh Shah. Thank you for your help and guidance. We all as a team, worked together and my regards and wishes to each and every one. I look back with a sense of pride and fulfillment and we have succeeded in achieving what we set out to do. I shall cherish the memories. Thank you for giving me the privilege of being the President of our prestigious Association.

R. Raghupathy